

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 2023/2024 STUDENT CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A CALL TO LEADERSHIP AND SERVITUDE

Delivered on 15th July 2023/27th Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH

As-Salam Alaikum Waramatullahi Wabarakatuhu,

It gives me great pleasure to address you on this delightful occasion. I honourably welcome you to this inauguration. I congratulate the newly elected executives on your emergence as winners in the recently concluded elections. You have been chosen as the ears and mouthpiece of your peers, you were elected because of your peers’ belief in your potential to do great things, and great things you shall do.

I equally commend the outgoing executives on the hard work and diligence they have showed while occupying their respective offices. Under your leadership, we have witnessed remarkable achievements and transformative initiatives that have added to the growth and development of the university from spearheading impactful community outreach programmes to enhancing student welfarism, your contributions have become a legacy.

Today, you pass the baton of leadership to the newly elected. Today, prospective student leaders become incumbent student leaders. As you stand on the threshold of your tenure, I urge you to embrace this opportunity with unwavering dedication, a spirit of collaboration, and a commitment to our institution’s core values. The responsibilities you hold are weighty, but with great responsibility comes great opportunity—to shape the future, inspire change, and leave an indelible legacy.

Your roles as student executives carry significant weight and influence. You are the voice of the student body, the catalysts for change, and the champions of their aspirations and concerns. I urge you to embrace this responsibility with humility, integrity, and a deep sense of purpose.

However, your responsibilities extend beyond the welfare of your fellow colleagues, you are also ambassadors and flag-bearers of Fountain University, and you must be conscious of your actions and how they reflect on the university. As student leaders, you should project the codes of conduct, ethics, and Islamic values and morals of the university.

Leadership is not about personal gain or recognition, but about serving the needs and interests of the student populace. Seek to understand the diverse perspectives and challenges of your fellow students, work to address their concerns, amplify their voices and champion their causes. Effective leadership requires a clear vision and the ability to communicate that vision with

passion and conviction. Take the time to reflect upon the values, goals, and aspirations of our institution. Develop a shared vision that inspires and motivates your team. Leadership is not a solitary endeavour; it thrives on collaboration and the harnessing of diverse perspectives. Surround yourself with a team of talented individuals who complement your strengths and challenge your assumptions. Encourage open dialogue, respectful debate and free exchange of ideas. Embrace the richness of diverse viewpoints, as they are the building blocks of innovation, progress, and development.

Nevertheless, do not forget to strengthen your relationship and bond with the management board and staff and communicate your plights and grievances peacefully and appropriately. As you embark on this journey, know that you are not alone. The entire institution stands firmly behind you, ever ready to provide support, guidance and resources. I assure you that the school management will grant you listening ears and work to ease your concerns. I am also very sure of the continued guidance from the Dean, Student Affairs will be very useful to you. Together, we can achieve remarkable feats and create a lasting impact.

I pray Allah (SWT) grant you all divine wisdom to carry out your duties diligently. I pray Allah (SWT) continue to elevate our beloved university and keep our flag flying (Amin).

Once again, congratulations on your inauguration.

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim
Vice-Chancellor